

## ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus for identifying and prioritizing wireless network devices are useful for selectively establishing communications based on the prioritization. Signal strength in a wireless network is indicative of a distance between a transmitting device and a receiving device. The strongest signal can be presumed to be emanating from the nearest device. Other signal qualities can be indicative of a presumed quality of service. By combining signal quality information with supplemental information concerning the devices, the various embodiments facilitate identifying those devices that match some selection criteria and prioritizing those matching devices based on the signal quality information. An example is to identify the wireless network device having desired characteristics that is nearest a network user.

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